************ CONDENSED CLASSICS

THE CHOIR INVISIBLE

on to Miss Sons Wore Beauti



len, who has lived much in New York City sinc 1886, had the goo fortune to spend his boyhood in a country of sur-passing loveliness. He was born (Dec. 21, 1850) near Lexington, Ky., on the old Allen estate, where his father settled in the wilderness days. The sheer charm of the blue grass region seems to have woven itself into the nature of the boy, who was des-

word pictures of his native state.

Mr. Allen took his bachelor's and master's degrees in the old Transylvania university, founded by Kentucky vania university, founded by Kentucky ploneers. He was compelled, by the failure in his father's fortune, to begin to teach at once, in public and private schools. He later became professor of Latin and higher English at Bethany College, He never married. In 1886 he definitely forsook academic pursuits, went to New York City and devoted himself to writing. By 1918 he had published 17 books. "Flute and Violin," a collection of short stories, appeared in 1891. "The White Cowl" has brought many pilgrims to its scene, the Abbey of Gethsemene, an exquisite bit of old France, near Louisville. In "Kentucky Cardinal" and "Aftermath" (1895-6), Mr. Allen first really proved "Kentucky Cardinal" and "Aftermath" (1895-6). Mr. Allen first really proved his power. Well known among his later books are "The Reign of Law." "The Mettle of the Pasture," and "The Bride of the Mistletoe." His novel "The Choir Invisible." written in 1897. Its perhaps the most "vibrant with the passion of beauty and pain" of any of his books.

REW writers of American fiction are better qualified the early history of Kentucky than is James Lane Allen, himself a native of the Blue Grass State.

He chose as his setting for "The Choir Invisible" that picturesque period during Washington's administration when the Mississippi was just being opened for navigation, and great through the Alleghany highway to settle the sparsely populated regions of the West and South.

Lexington, Kentucky, chancing to be directly in the path of one tributary of this current, received not only many of those who were abandoning the cities of the coast for the untried territory of a newer land, but also others who, having tested out the Utopian western country and left there health, famous American is entertained. More wealth, and dreams of success, were returning broken-hearted to the homes from which they had come.

Hence in Lexington one encountered persons of every class.

It was a heterogeneous populace high of courage and strong of fortitude, that amid clearing in forest and cane-brake laid the foundation of this fine old Southern city; a populace not to be daunted by discomfort, privation, or unceasing toll.

The heroes and heroines who thus sacrificed their lives on the altar of civilization have, the author tells us, long since joined "the choir invisible of the immortal dead," but they have left behind them a heritage that has come down to us through the centuries.

The chief character of the story is John Gray, the master in the little log schoolhouse, and we have a charming glimpse of him: "a young fellow of powerful bulld, lean, muscular, wearing simply but with gentlemanly care a suit of black which was relieved around his wrists and neck by linen, snow-white and of the finest quality." He had a handsome head covered with thick red hair, we are told, and was a man of such integrity as to render him a worthy descendant "from one of Cromwell's unconquerable, hymnsinging army."

We therefore are not surprised to find him holding himself aloof from the follies of the time, and seeking out the comradeship of those to whom the finer and nobler things of life appeal. Yet he is very human-a creature of anger, passion, and a multitude of moods. Moreover it is quite consistent with his character that he should fall in love with a woman whom he idealizes, Amy Falconer, who "was perhaps the first beautiful girl of aristocratic birth ever seen in Kentucky. and the first of the famous train of those who for a hundred years since have wrecked or saved the lives of She is a coquette, vain, shallow, and incapable of deep feeling, and she tosses John's love aside in a moment of pique for that of Joseph Holden: afterward, on discovering that there is a prospect of John's inheriting a fortune and becoming a person of importance, she shamelessly offers to rid herself of Joseph and reinstate John in her graces.

John Gray, however, is not to be so lightly dropped and picked up again. The episode proves to him that his idol has feet of clay, and with his faith in her shattered he bids her fare-

Amy, in the meantime, has made her bome with her aunt and uncle, Major and Mrs Falconer. Mrs. Fulconer - Louisville Courier-Journal.

stands out against a background of high-born Virginian ancestry—a back-ground of jewels, brocades, fans, and satin slippers; of balls and minuets; of wide-reaching plantations and slaves. The Major has been one of those she has heroically fought in the Revolution, and to whom the Southern beauty out of patriotic gratitude has given her hand, bravely following him into the Kentucky wilderness. Unfortunately, although neither of the pair confess it, the marriage has been an uncongenial one. Both, however, are too noble minded to do otherwise than be true to the union that holds them together. Yet there is a scar of disappointment beneath the surface, and in the woman's heart a weariness and longing that nothing satisfies. During John Gray's visits to her niece Mrs. Falconer has become deeply interested in the young schoolmaster, who is about her own age and whose tastes she shares. Between them a companionship has sprung up which each honestly mis-takes for friendship.

Amy's attraction for the man has

been an untutored impulse of the senses; but Jessica Falconer's power over him is one of deep spiritual in-

When he awakens to the discovery that in reality it is Mrs. Falconer whom he loves his reverence for her, her purity, and her loyalty to her husband all bind him to silence. She also loves him but is in honor bound to give him no sign, and hence with their love unspoken he goes East ostensibly to recover the legacy he expects to inherit, but determined never to return.

The lawsuit for his property goes against him and he is cast into jail for debt, from which ignominy the efforts of friends release him. He is a proud man and wishing to pay this debt of gratitude he proposes to marry the daughter of the family that has befriended him. Before the marriage, however, he tells his future bride quite frankly that he loves someone else who is not free, and it is with this knowledge that she accepts him. While the wedding is in preparation a letter comes to him from Mrs. Falconer announcing the death of her husband. and in the silent hope that his flancee will give him his liberty he acquaints her with the change in his prospects. We gather from the text that the girl is unwilling to give him up, and as he is too honorable to demand his freedom he carries out his pledge.

All ignorant of this turn of events Mrs. Falconer in the meantime is so sure of his love that she erects in distant Kentucky a stately mansion modeled after the home of her early youth. She is still in the thirtles and beautiful, and deluded into the belief that at last her dreams are to be fulfilled she makes ready for her martides of ploneers were migrating riage. A paper telling of John's union with someone else rudely destroys her paradise. Twice she has missed the prize of happiness. The intense joys of womanhood she is never to know. "I shall go softly all my days," she

murmurs. Time sweeps on but her beauty does not fade. She becomes the great lady of the Southern settlement and at her home Aaron Burr and many another than one man lays his fortu feet and goes away disappointed.

There are women who never experience the heights and the depths of life. "Gazing deep into their eyes we are reminded of the light of dim churches-They are the women who have missed happiness and who know it; but having failed of affection give themselves to duty. It was into the company of these quieter pilgrims that she had passed."

One day long afterward when she is alone in her garden she sees coming toward her a magnificent young fellow at the brink of manhood.

He lifts his hat with courtly gesture "I am John Gray, the son of your old friend, and my father sends me to you to stay if you will let me. And he desires me to deliver this letter."

"John Gray!" she cried. "You John Gray! You! Take off your hat."

For a moment she looked at his forehead and his hair; her eyes became blinded with tears. She threw her arms around his neck with a sob and covered his face with kisses.

Alone in the solitude of her bedroom she reads the letter.

John tells her that he loves her, that he has always loved her; and that It is the fire of this love that through the years has kept his ideals aglow. "Many a time this candle has gone

out; but as quickly as I could snatch any torch-with your sacred name on my lips-it has been relighted." "If," he adds, "I have kept unbroken

faith with any of mine, thank you. And thank God!" Thus ends the novel.

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"What's the matter with this gentle-

man who is being placed in an am-"He's a tired business man who was

prostrated in the front row." "How?"

"He was induced to attend what he supposed to be a conventional girl and music show, but it turned out to be a musical comedy with quite a complicated plot."-Birmingham Age-Herald.

"Some say we don't have the great actors we used to."

"Still there seems to be no general complaint so long as the supply of chorus girls remains up to the mark."

Weakened by Earthquake, Propped Up by Timbers



Buildings in Jalapa, capital of the state of Vera Cruz. Mexico, thrown out of plumb by the recent earthquake are shown propped up to prevent collapse. Vehicular traffic has been suspended on the thoroughfares thus affected for fear the least vibration would bring the weakened buildings down.

Review of Boston University Training Corps



Boston University Training corps marching through the public gardens recently on the occasion of a review and inspection, by Colonel Merry and Major General Edwards. Five hundred men turned out.

MARVIN METEOROGRAPH

Prof. Charles F. Marvin, chief of

the United States weather bureau, and

a new self-recording weather-observ-

ing instrument called a meteorograph

which he has invented. The instru-

ment automatically indicates various

changes in weather conditions at any

altitude. It is lifted into the air by

a large box kite secured to earth by

a piano wire. The wire is fed from

miles of wire. Frequently at the six

box-kite stations maintained by the bu-

reau as many as ten kites are oper-

away from the Georgia station and

helplessly entangled a mule in a cot-

tonfield. After three men had released

the mule the meteorograph was found

NEW ROOSEVELT BUST

Three-quarter view of the new bust

of Theodore Roosevelt by Vincenzo

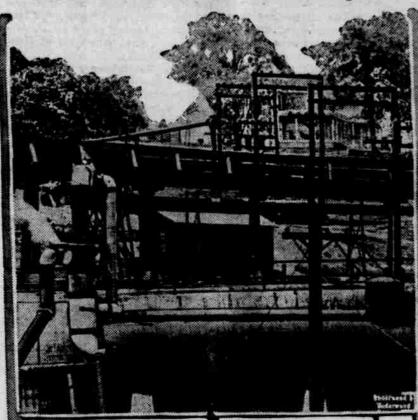
many as the best bust made of the

former president.

unharmed.

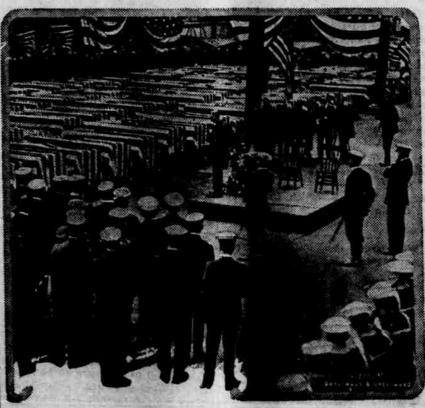
ated on one line. One outfit broke

Scranton Afraid It Will Collapse



Mining operations extending under Scranton, Pa., are said to threaten the sinking of much of the city, and litigation to stop them has been started. The photograph shows a residence in the danger zone and mine shafts in the

Dead Heroes of the Navy Brought Home



Secretary of the Navy Daniels paying tribute to the dead at the services held on a pier at Brooklyn for 153 dead officers and men of the navy and marine corps, whose bodies were brought back from the cemeteries at Brest, Marseilles and Nice.

MUCH IN LITTLE

Shortage of coal, insufficient transportation facilities, and a very unfavorable exchange situation are the three chief stumbling blocks in the way of Belgium's industrial rehabili-

The earliest gold coins are suppose to be those of Miletus, in Asia Minor, which were probably struck about B. C. 800.

Switzerland has an old law which compels the planting of six trees im. Miserendino, which is regarded by mediately after a marriage and two on the birth of a child.

The total value of the sheep in Nevada on January 1, 1920, is placed at \$16,438,000 and the total value of cattle other than milch cows at \$24,075,-

INLAND NORTHWEST

Two children were burned to death, two young women suffered burns and their mother was hurt severely, when the residence of Henry Bloyd at Kelso, Wash., was destroyed by fire.

According to an announcement that comes from Reno, preparations of an initiative act repealing all state prohibition legislation is under way for presentation to the next legislature.

At the annual ceremony of the grand lodge of Masons to be held in Reno, June 2, more tian 100 novices from all parts of the state are expected to be initiated into the rites of the order.

Nearly 2,5000,000 acres of phosphate lands in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming will be opened for leasing under rules and regulations approved by Secretary Payne of the United States department of the interior.

It is estimated that more than \$5,-000,000 will be received this year by the Nevada wool growers, while probably \$1,500,000 already has been paid the growers of the state for the shipments made this season.

The entire Hadley family, father, mother, two children and Mrs. Hadley's mother, residents of Newark Valley, Nevada, are in Reno taking the Pasteur treatment, following an attack by a rabid coyete.

Plans are being perfected at Elko, Nevada, for the formation of a fair association, it being planned to take over the old rodeo grounds and remodel the buildings and grounds for the holding of annual fairs.

About twenty sheepmen of Nevada have combined to import 200 head of Corriedale sheep from New Zealand for the purpose of extending that breed of sheep on the Nevada ranges. The project will cost about \$25,000.

Only 19.2 per cent of the population of Nevada has acess to free public libraries, leaving more than 66,000 persons not provided with free library service, according to the estimate of the United States bureau of educa-

The body of Robert H. Lindsay, nining engineer of Great Falls, who had been missing several days, was found in about 20 feet of water in the shaft of the Ticon mine at Butte. Friends say Lindsay had been sufferng from nervous troubles.

Five trainmen were injured, two probably fatally, when two huge electric locomotives drawing a single caboose on the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound rallway plunged over a 300-foot embankment in the Cascade mountains in Washington.

Punch boards and sticker cards, which have been operated in Great Falls cigar stores and pool halls for a long period without interference, have disappeared from those places following the delivery of orders to that effect from the sheriff.

Arrangements will be made for annual spring outings of farmers and their families at a series of district meetings to be held at Billings, Mont., under the auspices of the county farm bureau. Picnics are to be held in every farm district in the county.

The American Carrara Marbie Co., which has been for about ten years engaged in opening marble quarries at Carrara, Nevada, seems now to be meeting with success in spite of the many losses and disappointments from various causes suffered. The present force is about 40 men.

Transcontinental automobile traffic a steel drum containing eight or ten has opened for the season in earnest, according to officials of the Utah State Automobile association, who in two days have furnished road information to more than twenty parties passing through Salt Lake on their way east or west.

Unconnected with the "outside world" by railroad or wires, Jordan, county seat of Garfield county, Montana, has solved the problem of speedy communication by the establishment of a wireless plant, operated under a schedule of rates approved by the Montana state utilities commission.

Despite the talk of 25 cent sugar and profiteering, Roundup, Mont., people may still buy sugar by the sack for 17 to 18 cents per pound. Investigation shows that the local merchants have not taken advantage of the raise in adjoining towns, but have maintained the legal price and rate of profit.

That magples kill calves is the statement made by F. C. Kibler, residing on a ranch at the head of Woody creek in Garfield county, Montana, who adds that if the calves have been marked or have sore spots on their backs or bodies they become the prey of the magples, which peck at the exposed parts of flesh until the calves become weakened and in some cases hey die.

A subcommittee of the joint comuittee represented by the Searcia, 'acoma, Portland and Spokane charers of commerce, will visit Boise. ialt Lake and Helena to interest daho, Utah and Montana officials to he proposed irrigation and developent congress to be held in Seattle, eptember 13 and 14.

Mike Sheehan, charged with the jurder of Arthur McElfresh, Cenralia Armistice day parade victim, ias been released from the Lewis mnty jall at Chehalis, Wash.,

